

State of California
Earl Warren, Governor
Department of Natural Resources
Warren T. Hannum, Director

DIVISION OF MINES
Ferry Building, San Francisco
Olaf P. Jenkins, Chief

MINERAL INFORMATION SERVICE

Vol. 1

JULY 1, 1948

No. 7

MINERAL INFORMATION SERVICE is a monthly news release concerning the mineral resources and industry of CALIFORNIA, designed to inform the public of discoveries, operations, markets, statistics, and new publications. It is distributed without cost upon request.

MINING AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS NOTES

A Basic Refractory Brick Plant at Los Angeles

Since release of the June 1 issue, the Division of Mines has been informed that the General Refractories Company plant at Los Angeles, one of 23 plants operated by this company throughout the United States, has been manufacturing basic refractory brick since April 1947. Using the standard Ritex process, both unburned chrome-magnesite and magnesite-chrome bricks are produced in standard and specialty sizes. Foreign chrome is imported and magnesium oxide is obtained from domestic plants which make it from dolomite and sea water. Magnesite is a raw material shipped in from Washington. Chrome-magnesite or Ritex "C" brick goes chiefly to the open hearth steel industry; magnesite-chrome or Ritex "A" brick goes to the glass industry as checker brick and other forms. The plant also produces silica bricks, fire clays, and bonding mortars; a number of specialty products utilizing sillimanite materials, and a line of standard sillimanite brick products.

New Gold Dredging Operation in Siskiyou County

A contract has been let to build a power line from Thompson Creek to Reeves Ranch in Siskiyou County, a distance of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The line will furnish power for the bucket-line dredge now being assembled on the Klamath River about a mile above Happy Camp by the Reeves Ranch Dredging Company. The dredge will have 68 buckets of 4 cubic feet capacity and will be capable of digging to a depth of 23 feet. It will handle about 3000 yds. of gravel in 24 hrs. A crew of 12 to 15 men will be under supervision of Harold C. Young, dredgemaster.

Calaveras County Fair Mineral Exhibit

The mineral exhibit at the recent Calaveras County Fair was judged May 14-15. The best county exhibit was made by Frank Tower, owner of the Royal mine, located near Copperopolis. It was in the newly mined gold ore class. The display of large nuggets from the Ruby mine near Alleghany was spectacular and received a special award. Wildberg Brothers Smelting and Refining Company had a gold bar on exhibit. A prize was awarded to the person who came closest to estimating the value of it.

An attractive and appropriate exhibit of early devices used in recovering gold was set up on the grounds. These included gold pans, ground sluices, hand rockers, long toms, Chinese water wheels, and stamp mills.